

January 9, 1963

Dear Sarge--

I appreciated your note. I certainly wouldn't have applauded those people in Belgium either. I have to feel sorry for them, but I know ~~where~~ they did wrong. Just where to draw the line in such a matter is a terrible problem, and I could sometimes envy the faith that made it clear cut.

A determined discussion of religious principles would probably suit neither of us as a way to spend our time; I know we share a lot of common ground on the importance of scientific knowledge, to know just what we are doing, to recognize the full responsibility of our acts. But, at the symposium, I had to react to the presumptive insistence that science itself is a religion, and that any completely rational person must be an "evolutionary humanist" of Huxley's own denomination, about as dogmatic a position as one could find anywhere.

.....

Since you have never formally said "no" (though I should have enough sense to read your meaning) may I press you again to approve a medical student research scholarship? The NIH is making it very difficult to support such students from research or graduate training funds, Congress having been fairly direct in not supporting general medical education. Of course we hope this may be bettered; but meanwhile it can only drive some of the best prospects for doing clinical research on a good scientific basis out of the medical degree program.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

Mr. R. Sargent Shriver
Timberlawn
Edson Lane
Rockville, Md.